GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:105
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the children engaged in Agriculture and farming sector are passing through a critical situation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any plans to free such child labour; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the plans will be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 105 FOR ANSWER ON 20.08.2007 REGARDING `CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR` BY SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY.

(a) to (c): The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 15 hazardous occupations and 57 hazardous processes. Employment of children in agriculture and farming sector has not been prohibited under the Act except in the processes where tractors, threshing and harvesting machines are used and chaff cutting is involved as also handling of insecticides and pesticides. No adverse reports have been received with regard to a critical situation in these sectors in respect of engagement of children.

(d): Under the programmes of this Ministry, rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations is being provided.Under these programmes, children withdrawn from work are admitted to special schools where they are provided with education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition as well as health check-up facilities. At present, this programme is being implemented in 250 districts covering 20 States in the country under the National Child Labour Project Scheme. An expansion in the Scheme alongwith the enlargement of its scope through additional components during the XI Plan is under consideration. This inter alia covers the children working in notified hazardous occupations in the agricultural and farming sectors also. In addition, a scheme of Grants-in-aid to voluntary agencies for the benefit of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations is being implemented in the uncovered districts.